

FOUR AMERICANS REPORTED SLAIN BY NATIVE MOB IN MEXICO CITY; FEDERALS DESTROY A TOWN ON THE TEXAS BORDER; LOSS IS HEAVY

MORE ACTION NEW DEMAND OF CONGRESS

Unverified Stories of Late Mexican Atrocities Stir Washington.

NUMBER UNDER ARREST

Refugees Arriving in Vera Cruz Tell of Intense Anti-American Feeling.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, APRIL 25.—EL DICTADMEN, A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, SAYS FOUR AMERICANS WERE KILLED BY MOBS IN MEXICO CITY. IT DECLARES IT RECEIVED THE INFORMATION FROM THE FEDERAL CAPITOL.

Three of the American victims were taken out of street cars and killed on the streets, and the fourth was killed in the Young Men's Christian association building by members of a baseball team to which he belonged, according to the El Dictamen, which had its re-appearance today. The information was not confirmed from any other source and is considered doubtful in many quarters. Vera Cruz today was isolated from direct communication with the interior. Refugees arriving report intense anti-American feeling in all directions.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Americans in Mexico City are entirely dependent upon the Huerta government and small guards at foreign legations for protection. The state department said between sixty and one hundred men attached to various foreign legations in the Mexican capital are armed with small arms and machine guns upon which Americans might depend. These the department said, would be effective only against sporadic mob violence and practically powerless against any general movement or any mob attack the Mexican government might ignore. It is expected Americans, in the event of attack, would take refuge in other foreign legations.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—An undercurrent of desire in congress for more aggressive action in Mexico became apparent today, several members of the house and chairmen of important committees agreeing that the plan to "sit tight" at Vera Cruz, awaiting developments might result in embarrassing international complications. Some members argued that the government eventually would be forced into war against Huerta, and that more troops should be sent at once to the Mexican border. That congress would take some action as soon as troops arrive at Vera Cruz was predicted by several, who declared they were refraining from public expression of their views until the regular session of congress could be long adjourned, asserting congressional action must soon be taken.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Unconfirmed rumors of the killing of Americans by mobs in Mexico City, the arrest of American railroad employees, yesterday, at Orizaba, and information that American military authorities at Vera Cruz considered the situation at Mexico City and throughout the Mexican republic a grave one, for Americans, have aroused activity in the Washington government today.

While authorities were exerting every possible effort to get verifications of disquieting reports from the Mexican capital, Secretary Bryan conferred with Brazilian Ambassador Da Gama here upon the arrest of Americans at Orizaba and informed him that he requested the Brazilian diplomat to request the release of the prisoners. Da Gama urged the Brazilian minister in Mexico City to do all he could for the release of the Americans.

Officials here were much exercised over the reported assassination of

BULLETINS

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 25.—Fighting between Mexican federalists and constitutionalists was in progress last night, according to a report to Admiral Badger from British war vessels there.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—A note from the state department dispatched to General Carranza through Consul Agent Carothers reiterates that it is the intention of the American government merely to secure reparation from the Huerta government and not to engage in hostilities against the constitutionalists.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Senator Ashurst asked Secretary Garrison for government guns to arm citizens of Bisbee, Ariz. A telegram to Ashurst said 900 Mexicans "said to belong to the constitutionalist forces," were driving Americans out of Cananea, across the border.

New York, April 25.—The largest wireless outfit ever constructed for use of army in the field, sufficiently powerful to communicate from Vera Cruz to Arlington, Va., is ready at Bedloe Island. Orders are expected from Washington to forward it to Vera Cruz.

Madrid, Spain, April 25.—A press association published a cablegram from Carranza dated Chihuahua saying "the Mexican people will unite to fight against American invaders to the last breath. Of 17,000 Spaniards in Mexico many are ready to fight by the side of the Mexicans."

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Charge O'Shaughnessy and staff arrived at Vera Cruz last night.

Americans in Mexico City. Serious eventualities there, it was pointed out, might aggravate the present situation and serve to arouse a sentiment among the people that would demand more aggressive action in Mexico on the part of this government. It was further emphasized, however, that the Mexican people were not to be construed as any deliberate act of Huerta and that it could be claimed by his government that it is powerless to control the situation owing to the anti-American feeling caused by the seizure of Vera Cruz.

Although no new military orders were issued, plans for perfecting operations at Vera Cruz and along the Mexican border were being considered by Secretary Garrison, General Wetherston, chief of staff, and Major General Wood, who has been chosen to direct military operations in cooperation with Secretary Daniels.

Merely Sent for "Duty." After a long conference of department officials, early today, Secretary Garrison declared that troops enroute to Vera Cruz to reinforce the naval forces were sent "for duty."

What form this duty would take or how extensive and aggressive the operation of the troops would be, the secretary would not say. It was declared, however, there has been no change in the policy of the government to "sit tight" at Vera Cruz, unless retaliatory tactics are resorted to by Huerta or some overt action on the part of the constitutionalists should demand a forward movement into Mexico. Officials believe the constitutionalists will remain in the neutral zone. Should war be forced upon this government the base of operations would be Vera Cruz, and the plan would be confined to an advance, if possible, to the territory controlled by Huerta, with Mexico City as the objective point of the American forces.

Army and Navy Prepared.

The movement, it is generally believed, would be an extensive one. Although it is still the determined policy of the president to prevent war, the army and navy were prepared for any emergency, and should war come, it is said the war department is ready to send an army of 20,000 to 30,000 men into the interior, and increase the force to a greater degree along the Mexican border. Today there were appeals for more troops from border states.

Reports of dissension in the cabinet over the Mexican policy were denied by Bryan.

Americans Arrested.

An official report from Consul Canada says several Americans, including J. Starr Hunt and family and Burton Wilson, were placed under arrest in Mexico City after being taken from the refugee train that carried O'Shaughnessy and party to Vera Cruz. Admiral Howard reported a demonstration in front of the American consulate at Mazatlan, on the west coast, last night; that the governor had made all possible reparation; that a guard of federal soldiers is now protecting the consulate, and that the German consul is extending friendly offices to obtain a steamer to take away all foreigners from Mazatlan.

Reign of Terror in Capitol.

Further details as to conditions in Mexico City were given Consul Canada.

BORDER CITY STILL AFIRE; ALL IN ASHES

One-Time Stronghold of the Mexican Federalists is Now Smoldering Ruin.

NEW ATTACK IS FEARED

American Patrol Troops Prevent Destruction of Two International Bridges.

LAREDO, TEXAS, APRIL 25.—AFTER A NIGHT OF ANXIETY LAREDO THIS MORNING AWOKE TO A REALIZATION THAT DANGER OF IMMEDIATE TROUBLE FROM MEXICAN FEDERALISTS ACROSS THE RIVER HAD PASSED. NONE OF THE MEXICANS RETURNED TO NUEVO LAREDO THIS MORNING. DAMAGE BY FIRE IS \$500,000. THE DRUG STORE OF THE AMERICAN VICE CONSUL SUFFERED NO DAMAGE.

Laredo, Texas, April 25.—Smoldering ruins in Nuevo Laredo and hundreds of destitute refugees huddled in every possible shelter here today, was visible reminders of the desolation wrought yesterday by Mexican federalists, who burned their one time stronghold.

Excitement occasioned when Mexican federalists crossed the international line subsided when the federalists retreated, but it left a strong feeling of uneasiness. All night a reinforced patrol, aided by citizen volunteers, guarded the river front and two international bridges. Two Mexicans were shot yesterday in attempting to destroy the bridges.

Some more nervous citizens feared another visit of federalists to attack Laredo itself. It is definitely ascertained that the wild shooting of the Mexicans did no damage on the American side. On the Mexican side destruction is complete. The fires are still burning.

Early Story of Destruction. Laredo, Texas, April 25.—Nuevo Laredo, the thriving Mexican border town opposite here, is in ruins, devastated by dynamite and fire by Mexican federal soldiers who late yesterday began an orgy of destruction, which did not end until they were forced to flee southward before the guns of the American border patrol.

Two Mexicans are known to have been killed by the United States troops, and several were seen to fall when a machine gun platoon from Fort McIntosh got into action.

Several brisk skirmishes between the Americans and Mexicans were fought as the Mexicans, their troops ready to pull out of the burning city, began an indiscriminate fire across the international boundary, but there was no evidence that their shooting had been effective.

Property damage in Nuevo Laredo will reach \$500,000. Among the buildings destroyed were the United consulate, municipal building, post-office, theatre, the flour mill, one of the largest in this section of the southwest; and railroad shops of the Mexican National railway and other smaller structures.

Whole City May Burn.

Late last night the fire still was burning with no chance that it would be controlled until everything inflammable had been burned. Kerosene and other combustibles, liberally used, added to the wreckage, which otherwise would not have been great, owing to the adobe construction largely used.

There was no property loss in this city. Both international bridges are safe, though efforts to dynamite them resulted in the death of two men engaged in the undertaking.

One Mexican was shot by a sharpshooter from the top of the water

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PEACE OR WAR IN COLORADO FIELDS

Trinidad, Col., April 25.—Peace or war in the southern Colorado coal field was expected to be determined today by a conference between Adjutant General Chase, representing the government, and representatives of the United Mine Workers' organization.

AIN'T NATURE GRAND?



AMERICANS QUIT CHIHUAHUA STATE

Refugees Leave Behind Mines, Ranches, Factories, Etc., Valued at \$500,000,000.

EL PASO, TEXAS, APRIL 25.—One hundred and twelve American men, women and children refugees arrived today, and Americans are now nearly all out of the state of Chihuahua. Along the Arizona and Mexican borders Americans are arriving by hundreds every day. After a four years' revolution practically every American in northern Mexico invited into Mexico by every inducement Porfirio Diaz could offer is now a refugee, and property valued at from \$500,000,000 to \$500,000,000 in mines, ranches, factories and other industries has been left behind.

Galveston, Texas, April 25.—The vanguard of several thousand refugees from Mexico arrived today on the United States collier Cyclops, from Vera Cruz and Tampico, and the steamer Trinidadian, from Tampico. The majority were Americans. Tomorrow 1,500 are due on the steamer Esperanza. Cots were installed in the hospital at the United States immigration station on Pelican island, where refugees will be detained six days under quarantine regulations.

Vera Cruz Taken by Uncle Sam in 1847

After a prolonged period of preparation on March 5, 1847, the American naval force with transports under command of General Winfield Scott, appeared in Vera Cruz harbor, which American vessels had already blockaded.

Four days later boats bearing General Worth's regulars went ashore. The boats grounded in the surf and the soldiers waded to land, rushing up the sand dunes, and much to their surprise, meeting with no resistance. Worth's brigade was followed by Patterson's volunteers and Twig's regulars. Twelve thousand men, with two days' rations and a few light cannon, were landed between 2 in the afternoon and 10 at night.

From March 9 until March 22 this force was busy landing siege guns, digging trenches with great difficulty in the sands about the city and erecting platforms for the guns. On March 22 General Scott, who had invested the city from all sides, called on General Morales, the commandant, to surrender. Morales refused. The city was shelled. On March 29 the garrison offered to surrender and, after a few hours' parley, was allowed to march out with the honors of war.

The American army lost in the entire campaign 12 killed and 49 wounded. The navy lost seven killed and eight wounded. The Mexicans reported 400 killed and 200 wounded. The city was badly battered.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 p. m. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Generally fair and slightly cooler to night and Sunday, gentle breezes, mostly westerly.

Temperature at 7 a. m. 55. Highest yesterday 79. Lowest last night, 54. Velocity of wind at 7 a. m. 6 miles per hour.

Precipitation none. Relative humidity at 7 p. m. 48, at 7 a. m. 84.

Stage of water 3.8, a rise of .1 in last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS.

Evening stars: Mars, Venus, Saturn. Morning stars: Mercury, Jupiter. The brilliant white star Vega, seen low down in the northeast about 8 p. m., leads the rising of the compact three star constellation Lyra.

SPAIN ACTING AS HUERTA'S FRIEND

Alfonzo's Ambassador Takes Charge of the Mexican Affairs at Washington.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—The Spanish ambassador announced he had taken charge of the affairs of the Mexican government in Washington.

The secretarial force left at the Mexican embassy following the departure of Charge Algora. It was also announced that the consular affairs of the Mexican government would be turned over to the Spanish consuls.

BAER ATTACK IS PROBABLY FATAL

Philadelphia, Pa., April 25.—George F. Baer, president of the Reading railway, was stricken on the street at 9 o'clock today with what physicians believe a stroke of paralysis. He was on his way to his offices when he fell to the sidewalk. He became unconscious. His condition is serious and the outcome is doubtful, according to physicians.

ULSTERMEN HAVE 40,000 NEW GUNS

Belfast, Ireland, April 25.—Forty thousand rifles and 500,000 rounds of ammunition from Germany were landed at points on the coast of Ulster during last night and distributed by 200 automobiles to various headquarters of Ulster "volunteers."

VERA CRUZ NEARS A NORMAL STATE

Mexicans in Vicinity Are Advised They May Go and Come as They Please.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Secretary Daniels instructed Admiral Badger at Vera Cruz to issue a proclamation informing Mexicans in that vicinity they are free to come and go as they please. This, it is hoped, would induce Huerta to permit Americans to leave Mexico City, where they have been detained in consequence it is reported Mexicans are not permitted to leave Vera Cruz.

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 25.—Almost normal tranquility has been restored in the city and there were only occasional sniping shots during the night. Saloons are still closed. Restaurants are getting no supplies, so prices have advanced. American outposts have been increased, so that the city is surrounded by stations from one to five miles out.

REBELS' LEADER RESENTS INSULT

General Caballero, at Tampico, Taking Sides With Americans at Tampico.

Brownsville, Texas, April 25.—The following, signed by General Caballero, rebel commander at Tampico, dated the 24th, was given out by constitutionalist headquarters at Matamoros: "It having come to my notice that federalists at Tampico were offering further insults to Americans, I immediately reopened an attack at 4 this morning and expect to triumph tonight."

Tarrasch Wins in Chess Meet. St. Petersburg, April 25.—The game between Tarrasch and Janowski adjourned from the second round of the international chess masters' tourney was played yesterday and resulted in a victory for Tarrasch.

POSITION STATED BY JAP PREMIER

Country Has No Intention of Trying to Force Settlement of Difficulties.

Tokio, Japan, April 25.—The Japanese premier authorized this statement: "Japan has no intention whatever of utilizing the present trouble between the United States and Mexico to secure from the United States satisfactory settlement of the California difficulty."

BRYAN IS NOT TO RESIGN; IS MERE GOSSIP

Secretary of State Puts at Rest Rumors of Cabinet Dissensions.

NEVER GIVEN THOUGHT

Talk Probably Springs From Honest Difference of Opinion as to Mexico Plans.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—"The subject of my resignation has never been discussed with anybody, nor thought of by me," said Secretary Bryan.

White house officials pointed to the general denial issued a few days ago, saying it was sufficient to cover all rumors of cabinet dissension. They said they did not regard it necessary to repeat the denial with each published report. Outside of the White house there has been considerable discussion of individual views known to be held by members of the cabinet, none but natural differences of opinion as to what aggressive measures should be pursued.

Suggestions Invited.

The president himself, it is said, has invited the widest range of suggestions from his advisers and has steered a middle course between those who favor a quickly aggressive policy and those who believe war can be best avoided by patient observation and carefully deliberated action. Persons close to the administration council described the divergence of views as the product of natural differences among the departments of the war and navy, anxious to perfect arrangements for actual warfare if it should come.

Holding Down War Spirit.

The state department, which is trying through diplomacy to prevent aggressive movements which might aggravate action by the constitutionalists, is busily occupied in friendly repression of the war spirit in its allied departments. All cabinet secretaries themselves denied any serious division and point to close and frequent conferences as evidence.

Urges Universal Peace.

It was stated on authority that in no case has Bryan declared he would resign if the United States engaged in war, and he let it be known to personal friends he could be relied upon to do his full duty to the administration under any conditions. Rumors of Mr. Bryan's intention to retire from the cabinet in various contingencies are ascribed by his friends to sentiments uttered by the secretary in the early days of his incumbency. He has spoken often of universal peace and in a speech delivered in the west said there would be no war while he was secretary of state. The secretary's purpose, it is explained, was to emphasize his general conviction that the growing feeling of disapproval of warfare could be relied upon to prevent the country from drifting into war under any set of conditions that could be conceived of by those whom he addressed himself.

Daniels said today: "There is not now and has not been the least scintilla of friction in the cabinet. At a time like this, my private judgment as a newspaper man is, that the press owes it as a patriotic duty not to spread such reports."

HUERTA CANS ALL BUT ROAD'S HEAD

New York Office of Mexican Railways Receives Confirmation of Resign Order.

New York, April 25.—The National Railways of Mexico office confirmed a report from Mexico City that Huerta had asked all Americans in the employ of the railway company, with the exception of President E. N. Brown, to resign. Brown is here, but it is not known whether he will continue in charge of the railway. Local offices of the road have had no direct word from any of the operating offices of the company in any part of Mexico for the last three days.